



**Commission on the Status of Children and Youth
Mayoral Report to City of Bloomington Common Council
August 28, 2013**

INTRODUCTION:

The commission is composed of dedicated civic-minded commissioners Adaliah (Dee) Brown, Ben Planton, Teresa Grossi, Gregg Miller, Mary Balle, myself and recently appointed new commissioner YeVonne Jones as well as our city liaison Kathy Meyer who is very helpful to the functioning of the commission and Pete Giordano Director of the Community and Family Resource Department. I would also like to acknowledge City Council representative Susan Sandberg who has been a great friend to the commission.

MISSION: Our mission is to “promote connections in our community which empower, enhance and nurture children and youth. “

ACTIVITIES: We have been busy. Since we began this commission in April 2012 we have met together and in subcommittee over 25 times. We have been working hard at finding our voice while fostering collaboration among the groups in Bloomington dedicated to children and youth.

Here are some highlights of the Commissions’ activities:

- April-September 2012 Developed a mission Statement and related outcomes.
- April-November 2012 Collaborated with an Indiana University SPEA Graduate school class to develop and conduct a survey at the MCPL and at the Farmers Market.

- September 2012 helped sponsor the South Central Indiana Association on the Education of Young Children conference (SCIAEYC) Conference and will do so again this year.
- Participated in Homeward Bound in 2011, 2012 & 2013, assisted in marketing and conducted fund raisers that raised about \$300 dollars for the cause.
- We collaborated with NET-Nurture Engage Transform-the local Prevent Child Abuse group in providing Marketing support for their community event in April 2013 at Broadview School Family Day event-also participated in the event to share our mission and ask about concerns .
- We outreach to the community such as the Farmers Market table giving us the opportunity to meet citizens and share our mission--Literature, surveys, and most recently giving away gun locks to interested parties.
- We have hosted a variety of visitors at our meetings who shared their interest and explored with us how we might collaborate to assist the children and youth in Bloomington—Latino Affairs, AFC, (We also try to recruit them for our commission.)

STRENGTHS:

Our biggest strength is our passionate belief that we must bring people together to recognize and acknowledge the abilities and needs of children and youth in our community. It's not been an easy task. We know we much work to do, but we are focused on our mission.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

- Develop a Children and Youth calendar-we are currently soliciting funding for the project.
- Develop a signature event---perhaps for April which is designated as National Prevent Child Abuse month.
- Facilitate ways for groups to collaborate at smaller events community events such as the Broadview School Family Day event.

INVITATION:

The Commission invites you and the public to contact us via the City Website – bloomington.in.gov/cscy or come to our meetings to celebrate achievement and/or suggest collaborations. The commission meets on the third Tuesday of every month from 5:30 to 7pm in the Hooker Room at City Hall.

CLOSING: I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to report on the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Children and Youth.

Thank you,

Ron Smith, Chair